

Application No.: 10/685,406
Art Unit: 3722

Attorney Docket No. 23380.00
Confirmation No. 7856

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14. Also, Claim 16 has been canceled. Claims 7 and 10 were canceled by the prior amendment filed August 13, 2004. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-15 and 17 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 14 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner reopened prosecution in view of the Appeal Brief filed June 30, 2005. Applicant has elected to file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 to this Office Action.

Claims "1-13 and 17" were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oleske et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,690,364) in view of Roane (U.S. Patent No. 5,195,262), and further in view of Ferdon (U.S. Patent No. 1,536,429). The Examiner's inclusion of Claims 7 and 10 in the instant rejection appears in error since these claims were canceled by the amendment filed August 13, 2004. The Examiner indicated that Claims 14 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of

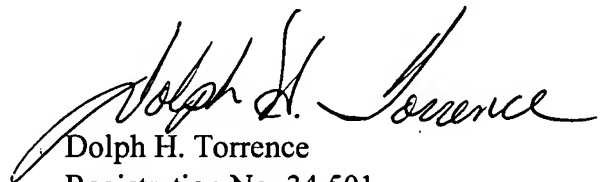
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Claim 16. Also, allowable Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 14, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15 and 17 are allowable over the prior art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph H. Torrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dolph" and last name "Torrence" being clearly legible.

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